



City of Alexandria, Virginia
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Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Justin M. Wilson
Mayor

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August 8, 2019

Mr. Matthew Baker
HHS, Regional Director, Region III
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
801 Market Street, Suite 8000
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3134

Dear Mr. Baker:

On July 29, 2019, you contacted me to give Notification on Exploratory Assessments for Potential Permanent Shelters for Unaccompanied Alien Children in Virginia, Florida and California being conducted by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in the Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families.

Please be advised that the City of Alexandria, Virginia has no interest in hosting such a shelter or being a part of any "Exploratory Assessment."

The Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center located in the City of Alexandria ended their ORR/DUCs contract as a direct response to local elected officials opposing the detention of that population of immigrant children. Our City values every resident or visitor regardless of their immigration status. We have adopted numerous resolutions and policies which outline our commitment to people from all walks of life, and our intent to provide them with the respect, safety and security they are entitled to receive.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government's current treatment of immigrant families is in direct conflict with our community's values. Accordingly, we want no part of this process.

Sincerely,

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Justin M. Wilson
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
Mark B. Jinks, City Manager
Joanna Anderson, City Attorney
The Honorable Don Beyer, U.S. House of Representatives (Va.)
The Honorable Mark Warner, U.S. Senate (Va.)
The Honorable Tim Kaine, U.S. Senate (Va.)
The Honorable Ralph Northam, Office of the Governor (Va.)
Darcie Johnston, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, HHS
Lee Stevens, Senior Policy Advisor, HHS
Melissa Herd, Senior Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, HHS
Gregorio Hunt, HHS